



News Release

PARTICIPANTS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

County of San Diego

United States Forest Service

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

Forest Area Safety Task Force of San Diego

Bureau of Land Management

Caltrans

San Diego Gas & Electric

Community Organizations

Interested Stakeholders

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fuel Reduction Demonstration for the Public

Watershed Recovery Project



San Diego County, CA, November 10, 2004 –As part of the Southern California Watershed Recovery Program, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is establishing a demonstration site on brush reduction alternatives. The educational site is meant to inform landowners and local agencies of alternative ways to reduce fuel loads that contribute to dangerous wildfire conditions. The demonstration site will consist of three acres treated using various fuel reduction methods: prescribed fire, herbicide application, and goat browsing. The site is located at 4075 Hwy 78 in Santa Ysabel.

On Wednesday, November 16, 2004, the first fuel reduction treatment will commence at the demonstration site. Motte Ranch will be conducting the goat browsing treatment and will be giving a presentation to the public between 10:00 AM and noon. Press time will be 10:15. This presentation will provide an opportunity for landowners and local agencies to observe the setup process, learn the benefits and constraints of using goats, and ask questions to a local goat contractor. Goats are becoming a popular form of brush control in Southern California due to their cost-effectiveness and ability to traverse otherwise inaccessible terrain. They also can remove/eat almost anything; however, on-site herders can manage the goats so they selectively browse the species of vegetation a landowner wishes to remove.

The Fire Safety and Fuels Reduction Program is a cooperative effort between federal, state, and local agencies, as well as community organizations and other interested stakeholders to protect the life and property of San Diego County residents. The \$45 million program is funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, County of San Diego and others. More information is available on the internet at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov or <http://www.sdcdpw.org/tree> or by calling Kelly Strecker at 760-233-9507.

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USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Hotline: (866) 402-6044

Web Site: <http://www.sdcdpw.org/tree>